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# Demographic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Ottoman period till 1991 and the modern demographic problems

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## Abstract

The earliest inhabitants of the territory of present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina where the Illyrians, and after them came the Celts, Romans, Goths and Avars. Slavs arrived in the 6th century and established the first state in the region. Bosnia and Herzegovina, in its turbulent history, was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, the Austro-Hungarian, and then it was a part of the Kingdom of SHS and a part of the Yugoslavia.

Population development and population trends and population structure can be monitored from the first census in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was conducted during the reign of Ottoman Empire. Beginning with the first official census in 1851 the development of the population in different lists can be traced till 1991 when the last census was conducted.

At the end of the 20th century the entire Balkan region has gone through a difficult war period that followed the political, economic and demographic changes that brought certain consequences. After the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995) the census was not executed. The war has claimed its victims and there were present war migration. All today's data regarding the numbers of the population are based on estimates by the Bureau of Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Serbia. Besides the lack of the census, there is the issue of negative natural increase and negative net migration.

This paper discusses the development and movement of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the first to the last official census of the population as well as recognition of modern demographic problems. The task is, using a variety of data sources and data display techniques, to present the development of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the very best way, using modern geographic and cartographic methods.

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## 1. Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of Southeast Europe, located in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula. Its area is 51,209.02 km<sup>2</sup>. From the north, west and south it borders with Croatia, from the southeast with Montenegro and from the east with the Republic of Serbia. It has access to the Adriatic Sea with a length of 21.2 km. The capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina is Sarajevo.



Fig. 1. (a) Location of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Europe

The earliest inhabitants in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina were the Illyrians, and after them came the Celts, Romans, Goths, Avars, and in the sixth century Slavs have arrived and created the first state in the region. In its turbulent history Bosnia and Herzegovina has been ruled by the Ottoman Empire, Austro - Hungarian, it was a part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, and then it was the part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This paper will analyze the demographic development of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Ottoman period, when first partial censuses were committed, and the Austro - Hungarian period, the SCS Kingdom and Yugoslavia, until 1991 when the last census was conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of the twentieth century the Balkan Peninsula went through a difficult period of the war that was followed by the political, economic and demographic changes. After the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995) and the signing of the

Dayton Peace Agreement in November in 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina is divided into two entities: the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 51% of pre-war territory and the Republic of Serbia, with 49% of pre-war territory.

Contemporary demographic problems are reflected in the lack of a census, migration and negative natural increase. All current data relating to the numbers of the population are based on estimates of the statistical office.

*Methodology.* This paper will apply primarily *a method of analysis*. It will examine the basic components of demographic development. After analytical research follows synthesis, which is the culmination of the previous work and the starting point of any research, by which the demographic situation and prospects of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be determined.

A special place in demographic research takes *mathematical-statistical method* which is indispensable during collecting the data on the spatial, temporal and other entries. Also, for the processing of data collected *the method of classification, mapping method, the method of systematization, the comparative method, generalization method, specifying method, descriptive method, the historical method* are used.

The available literature and resources related to the issues of research have been used: university textbooks, scientific papers, published works, monographs. Great significance for research has the statistical parameters obtained from the Federal Statistical Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and from the Republic Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

## 2. Turkish period

The territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1463 became part of the Ottoman Empire. At the time of the Turkish conquest there was a large loss of population due to religious fighting and infighting in the state. In addition to killing many people, a large number of men and women were taken into slavery, and a part of the population was moved to Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Montenegro (Pejanovic, 1955).

Population development through the Turkish period was followed by an epidemic of plague, years of hunger, foray outlaws, and the Turkish governing authority led to a permanent migration in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Fig.2. Borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the population situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during the Ottoman rule, influenced many factors, such as migration, crop failures, epidemics, great depredations and heavy taxes, violence, persecution, robbery, taking the toll in blood, uprisings and wars, heavy bond relationships, religious persecution, dispersal and forcible transfer of population and generally disorganized and difficult social, economic and political situation.

During Turkish period the first censuses were completed. Although they were partial, incomplete and much below the minimum criteria of the then population census, they are of great importance. Based on the data, which related mainly to the list of men's heads, populated areas, farmland, the demographic situation in the period can be reconstructed.

The first list - defteri were made by Sancaks, the administrative units. Defteri relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, located in the National Archives of the Republic of Turkey, are sorted and archived in different batches of documents, and most of them are encoded as Tapu defteri. Fifties of the twentieth century Turkey delivered to Bosnia and Herzegovina dozens of these lists from the State Archives of the Republic of Turkey and this act has made great progress in the study of the past Bosnian people. Defteri pertaining to all corners of the former Yugoslavia were located in the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo. During the war in 1992 all defteri were completely burned.

The Turkish government executed the first official census in 1851, and in later years it carried out only a calculation of the number of inhabitants and represented them as results of the actual list. This list and the following calculations were not reliable and it is assumed that they showed fewer people than the actual. Some of the features of these lists are superficial, deliberately reducing the number of households and the inability of enumerators.

Table 1: Number of population and population by religion according the Turkish official estimates and censuses in 1851, 1865, 1871 and 1876 <sup>1</sup>

| Year | Population | Population by religion |          |           |        |
|------|------------|------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|
|      |            | Muslims                | Orthodox | Catholics | Others |
| 1851 | 916.000    | 328.000                | 400.000  | 178.000   | 10.000 |
| 1865 | 1.278.850  | 419.628                | 593.548  | 257.920   | 7.754  |
| 1871 | 1.042.000  | 541.000                | 340.000  | 156.000   | 5.000  |
| 1876 | 1.053.700  | 480.000                | 410.000  | 160.000   | 3.000  |

According to the census, Table 1 (Pejanovic, 1955.), during 25 years, from 1851 to 1876, it is noted that the number of residents increased by 137 700 inhabitants, or an increase of 15.03%, average per year 5 508. However, most of the population is recorded in in 1865, after which came, in 1871, a reduction of the population; in six years the population has decreased by 18.5%, believing to be the cause of plague that claimed many lives. Towards the end of Ottoman rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as calculated in 1876, it is considered that the present territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina had a population of 1,053,700 inhabitants.

According to the census of in 1851, the population is dominated by the Orthodox population with 43.7%, then followed Muslims with 35.8% and Catholics with 19.4%. During the period from 1851 to 1876 the number of Muslims has increased by 9.8%, while the number of the Orthodox decreased by 4.8% and 4.2% for Catholics. Bosnia and Herzegovina was under Turkish rule until in 1878, when it came under Austro-Hungarian rule.

### 3. The period of Austro-Hungarian rule

By decision of the Berlin Congress in 1878 Austria-Hungary occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina. After more than four centuries under Ottoman rule, the country was occupied by a force which had ruled in the region for 40 years. In the new regime, there were changes in the administrative and political terms<sup>2</sup>, the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina was 51.199 km<sup>2</sup>.

During the rule of Austria-Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been exploited in various ways. Because of its great natural resources, intensive exploitation and exploration of mineral wealth and forests began, especially in the Sarajevo area that stood out and stands out for this natural resource. Bosnia was a colony that should be exploited for all of its natural resources and that is the reason it is transformed into a vast source of raw materials of Austro-Hungarian Empire.

<sup>1</sup> The population during the Turkish rule is approximate, except for the official census in 1851. Population in 1865, 1871 and 1876 is according to the official estimation.

<sup>2</sup> The Administration was located in Vienna, to which the National government was subordinated. The state was divided into six districts (Sarajevo, Travnik, Bihać, Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla), and they were divided into the districts and the offices, and they into municipalities.



Since the roads and means of transport in Bosnia and Herzegovina were very primitive, the new occupier, in order to facilitate the exploitation, began with the renovation and construction of roads, in order to associate wealth with Serbia and Montenegro.

Moreover, Austro-Hungarian authority built in 1906 the narrow-gauge railway Sarajevo – Dobrun which, regardless of the purpose of the construction and exploitation of natural resources, greatly contributed to traffic connecting Sarajevo and the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Serbia (tracks from Dobrun continued to Užice and to Belgrade).

Permanent migration of Bosnia and Herzegovina population that took place through the Turkish period did not stop during the Austro-Hungarian period, but they were slower and to a lesser extent. The population emigrated due to a variety of political, psychological and economic reasons and immigrated due to the administrative, political, economic and colonial reasons. Most of the population immigrated from Austria, Germany, Hungary and inhabited the cities and industrial centers. Also, a large number of disgruntled citizens emigrated, Serbs and Muslims. In connection with the migration Austro-Hungary did not published accurate data, because it was not convenient to know the exact number of foreign immigrants, as well as the exact number of the evicted locals (Pejanovic, 1955).

Table 2. Number of population, population density and population by religion, according the Austro-Hungarian census in 1879, 1885, 1895 and 1910

| Year | Population |         |         |                     | Population by religion |          |           |        |        |
|------|------------|---------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------|
|      | Total      | M       | F       | pop/km <sup>2</sup> | Muslims                | Orthodox | Catholics | Jews   | Others |
| 1879 | 1.158.440  | 607.789 | 550.651 | 22,6                | 448.749                | 496.375  | 210.216   | 3.426  | 249    |
| 1885 | 1.336.091  | 705.025 | 631.066 | 26,1                | 492.710                | 571.250  | 265.788   | 5.805  | 538    |
| 1895 | 1.568.092  | 828.190 | 739.902 | 30,6                | 548.632                | 673.246  | 334.142   | 8.213  | 3.859  |
| 1910 | 1.898.044  | 994.852 | 903.192 | 37,1                | 612.137                | 825.418  | 442.197   | 11.868 | 7.224  |

During the Austro-Hungarian Empire four censuses were executed: in 1879, 1885, 1895 and 1910. Their first list was quite incomplete and uncertain, while the other lists were much more detailed and more reliable because they were performed by qualified personnel.

In Table 2 (Federal Office of Statistics, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) it can be traced population density and population to confession for the listed Austrian-Hungarian lists. It is observed that the number of people over a period of Austro-Hungarian rule grew steadily. Population growth in the period 1879-1910 in the absolute number is 739 604, or an increase of 63.8%, which is average per year 23 858.

Through the Austro-Hungarian period the number of males was larger than females. The percentage share of males ranges from 52.4% (as in 1910) to 52.8% (as in 1885 and 1895), and the percentage share of females from 47.2% (as in 1885 and 1895) to 47.6% (as in 1910).

Analyzing the Austro-Hungarian censuses, we note that in each in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are mostly Orthodox (increase in the period 1879-1910 amounts to 66.3%), followed by Muslims (the increase in the period 1879-1910 amounts 36.4%), and Catholics (the increase in the period 1879-1910 amounts 110.4%) and Jews (the increase in the period 1879-1910 amounts 246,4,9%).

Population growth was initiated by the need for labor in the urban economy, and increased numbers of people contributed to numerous civil servants who worked for the government of Austria-Hungary. In this period, the largest increase was of Jews and Catholics, as civil servants, traders and other employees came from other Habsburg countries. About 32 percent of the population of the capital, Sarajevo, in 1910 had Austrian or Hungarian citizenship (Donia, 2006).

Large population losses Bosnia and Herzegovina suffered during World War I, when many people were killed in the fighting, died from poor living conditions, were killed in prisons and concentration camps as political prisoners.

Of course, with increase of the population grew the population density, which ranged from 22.6 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> in 1879 to 37.1 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> in 1910. According to the census in 1910, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 1,898,044 inhabitants, of whom Orthodox 43.5%, Muslim 32.3%, Catholic 23.3%, Jewish 0.6%, and other 0.4%.

#### 4. Period SCS of Kingdom

The state of Yugoslavia, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Kingdom of SCS), was formed in 1918, and in its composition entered Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period from 1918 to 1929 the administrative division remained the same as during the Austro-Hungarian rule, and in 1922 the districts were formed instead of the areas (whose territories were matched with the districts), and in 1929 the provinces were formed.

After the war in the SCS Kingdom emigration continued, primarily many foreigners moved, and immigration of the local population was not interrupted due to the poor economic situation. During this period, two censuses in 1921 and in 1931 were organized. Results from the first list were superficial, while the second list was more accurate and more professional.

Table 3. Population, population density and population by religion in lists of the Kingdom of SCS in 1921 and in 1931

| Year | Population |           |           |                     | Population by religion |           |           |        |        |
|------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
|      | Total      | M         | F         | pop/km <sup>2</sup> | Muslims                | Orthodox  | Catholics | Jews   | Others |
| 1921 | 1.890.440  | 966.209   | 924.231   | 36,9                | 588.173                | 829.360   | 453.617   | 12.031 | 7.259  |
| 1931 | 2.323.555  | 1.185.040 | 1.138.515 | 45,1                | 718.079                | 1.028.139 | 547.949   | 11.267 | 18.121 |

In the SCS Kingdom the trend of population continued to grow, and in 1931 Bosnia and Herzegovina had 2,323,555 inhabitants, Table 3 (Pasalic et al., 2006). Population growth for the period 1921-1931 was 433 115, or 22.9%. In both lists there were a growing number of men than women, but that in 1931 this ratio was pretty balanced, so it was 51% of male and 49% of female. The growth of population density continued, and in 1931 the population density in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 45.1 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>.

According to the census in 1921 and in 1931, the majority of the population was Orthodox. According to the census of in 1921, the total population of 1,890,440, 43.9% were Orthodox, 31.1% Muslim, 24.0% Catholic, 0.6% Jewish, and 0.4% other.

In 1931 Orthodox Christians were still the largest 44.2%, percentage of Orthodox Christians with reference to the previous list increased by 0.3%. The percentage share of Muslims in the total population decreased by 0.2%, and in 1931 amounted 30.9%. Also, the participation of Catholics fell by 0.4%, and in 1931 amounted 23.6%, and 1.3% were other denomination.

#### 5. The period after World War II

World War II caused major demographic changes in whole Bosnia and Herzegovina. Great numbers of people were killed, and then, after the war, major political and social changes followed as well as changes in the state organization. Federal unit Bosnia and Herzegovina was created on 29 November 1943, with an area of 51,129 km<sup>2</sup> and it was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

After World War II, Bosnia and Herzegovina was experiencing a rebirth in every sense, a period from 1948 till 1991 was characterized by a steady increase in population, positive population growth and migration of the population. Great ethnic diversity of the population was a special feature of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the period of Yugoslavia six official state censuses were done: in 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1991. Analyzing the data in Table 4 (Federal Office of Statistics, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) related to the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period from 1948 till 1991, it is evident that the population is constantly growing. During the period of 43 years, the population grew by 70.7%, or 1,812,725 people. The annual population growth rate during this period decreased from 1948 to 1953 when it was 2.1, up to the period of 1981-1991 when it was 0.6. According to the last census, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 4,377,033 inhabitants.

It is important to note that in this post-war period there has been a change in the gender composition of the population, and female sex becomes more abundant in relation to men, as a result of large population losses during World War II, predominantly male population. Immediately after the war, in 1948 the ratio of males and females was 48.2%: 51.8%. In the following years the share of the male population has been increasing, but the proportion

of the female population was still over 50%. In the last census in 1991 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ratio of males and females has been quite balanced, and it was 49.9% of male and 50.1% of female.

Table 4. Population and population density by census from 1948 till 1991

| Year | Population |           |           | Pop/km <sup>2</sup> |
|------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
|      | Total      | M         | F         |                     |
| 1948 | 2.564.308  | 1.236.932 | 1.327.376 | 50,1                |
| 1953 | 2.847.459  | 1.385.559 | 1.461.900 | 55,6                |
| 1961 | 3.277.948  | 1.599.665 | 1.678.283 | 64                  |
| 1971 | 3.746.111  | 1.834.600 | 1.911.511 | 73,2                |
| 1981 | 4.124.256  | 2.050.913 | 2.073.343 | 80,6                |
| 1991 | 4.377.033  | 2.183.795 | 2.193.238 | 85,5                |

Population density is increased and in the beginning of the period, in 1948, the rate was 50.1 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, and in 1991 it amounted 85 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. In the period from 1948 to 1991 there was a change in population: high birth and death rates exceed to the low, which resulted in a change in population growth. The birth rate in the period 1950-1954 was 26.2 ‰, that in subsequent periods decreased and in the period 1985-1989 it was 9.6 ‰.

Table 5. Age groups (in %) and the aging index for 1971, 1981. and 1991

| Year | 0 - 19 | 20 – 59 | >60  | unknown | aging index |
|------|--------|---------|------|---------|-------------|
| 1971 | 45,4   | 46,5    | 7,7  | 0,4     | 17,0        |
| 1981 | 38,0   | 53,5    | 8,3  | 0,2     | 21,7        |
| 1991 | 31,7   | 54,9    | 11,0 | 2,3     | 34,8        |

Bosnia and Herzegovina had a marked emigration of the population in this period, the most prominent among the countries of the former Yugoslavia, which was caused by a variety of economic and demographic factors. From 1948 till 1991 Bosnia and Herzegovina had a negative migration balance (Pasalic, 2012).

Table 5 (Federal Office of Statistics, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) shows the age structure of the population in the last three censuses conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, so it is noted that the proportion of young people (0 to 19) in the period 1971-1991 decreases, while the proportion of the adult (20 to 59) and older (over 60) population increases. In this twenty-year period, the share of young population has decreased by 13.7%, while the share of elderly has increased by 3.3% and the proportion of mature population by 8.4%.

The national structure of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown in Table 6 (Pasalic et al., 2006 and Federal Office of Statistics, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) where it is noted that there is a change in this structure in the period 1948-1991. At the beginning of the period, in 1948, the Serbs made 44.3% of the population in order to the proportion of Serbs reduced by 13.1% in 1991, Croats share by 6.5%, while the proportion of Muslims has increased by 12.8%. Thus, in 1991, 43.5% of the population was consisted of Muslims, 31.2% Serbs, 17.4% Croats and 7.9% other.

Table 6. The ethnic composition of the population by census from 1948 till 1991

| Nationality | 1948 | 1953 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Serbs       | 44,3 | 44,4 | 42,9 | 37,2 | 32,0 | 31,2 |
| Croats      | 23,9 | 23,0 | 21,7 | 20,6 | 18,4 | 17,4 |
| Muslims     | 30,7 | 31,3 | 25,7 | 39,6 | 39,5 | 43,5 |
| Others      | 1,1  | 1,3  | 9,7  | 2,6  | 10,1 | 7,9  |

## 6. Contemporary demographic problems

Basically, the most important issue when it comes to contemporary demographic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the fact that it has been 22 years since the last census. The last census was conducted in 1991, just before the start of the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war, from 1992 till 1995, there were no data on the population. For a period in 1996 until today population estimates of official institutions have been used: Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Office of Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is characterized by three long-term, global depopulation processes. Total population decline in the last intercensal period (1991-2011), the natural population decline, based on the negative population growth and aging population. The aging of the population has an unfavorable effect on the natural dynamics of the population, the mechanical and overall movement, and therefore it is the most important determinant of long-term depopulation of the population in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Pasalic, 2012).

Author of "Demographic losses in Bosnia and Herzegovina 1991-2011", Stevo Pašalić divides demographic losses in the war into: direct demographic losses, net demographic losses (losses in birth) and migration losses. Based on the research of the suffering of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina there is an information that during the war at least 110 000 people were killed, representing 2.5% of the population in 1991. The author estimates the losses in the birth, that there was no war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period from 1992 till 1995 there would be 39 750 children born and these are pure demographic losses in birth. Forced war migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina moved about 2 million people, nearly 50% of the total population in 1991. About one million refugees and displaced persons fled abroad or outside the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is 22.85% of the population in 1991. After the war, a number of refugees returned from abroad, and it is estimated that the migration demographic losses in Bosnia and Herzegovina are around 986 216 inhabitants.

It follows that: total demographic losses in the period 1992-1995 amount to approximately 1,135,966 residents, which is 25.95% of the population in 1991, or around a quarter of pre-war population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Pasalic, 2012).

Table 7. Population estimates from 1996 till 2011

| Year       | 1992-1995 | 1996      | 2001      | 2006      | 2011      |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Population | no data   | 3.645.000 | 3.798.000 | 3.843.000 | 3.840.000 |

Table 7 (Demography 2011; 2012) shows the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to estimates for 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011. First, it is evident that the population in 1996 was lower compared to population in 1991. For five years the population has decreased by 6.5% and in 1996 population decreased by 732,033 as a result of population loss in the war and very distinguished war migration.

According to the estimates for the period 1996-2011 population increased by 195 000 or in 15 years the population increased by only 5.3%. Till 2006 the population has increased slightly but from then the population was declining. Apart from the present post-war migration, caused by difficult economic conditions, negative population growth is responsible for the post-war depopulation.

In Table 8 (Demography 2011; 2012) we see that the rate of natural social growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the highest in 1996 and since then it has been steadily falling, so that in 2007 it was negative and has had a further downward trend, which is caused by the large number of deaths compared to the number of births.

Table 8. The birth rate (‰) in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1996 till 2011

| Year | '96 | '97 | '98 | '99 | '00 | '01 | '02 | '03 | '04 | '05 | '06 | '07  | '08 | '09  | '10  | '11  |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|
| N.G  | 5,9 | 5,5 | 4,5 | 3,7 | 2,4 | 1,9 | 1,4 | 0,9 | 0,7 | 0,1 | 0,2 | -0,3 | 0,0 | -0,1 | -0,4 | -0,8 |



Basically, without population census the demographic losses in the war cannot be measured and talked about with accuracy, and not even about the current population of Bosnia and Herzegovina and their structure (gender, age, ethnicity, education). However, the problem of the census is not unsolvable, but it is certainly more political than demographic issue.

In preparation for the Census of Population and Housing, which is planned to be carried out in 2013, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented "test list" in cooperation with the entity statistical institutes from 15 till 29 October 2012. The objective of "test list" is the check of prepared methodological, organizational and IT solutions in the collection and processing of census data in order to timely and appropriately prepare implementation and to remove possible deficiencies in the implementation of the census in 2013. Population census 2013 was planned to be implemented from 1 to 15 April, but, again, it is delayed for the Autumn 2013.

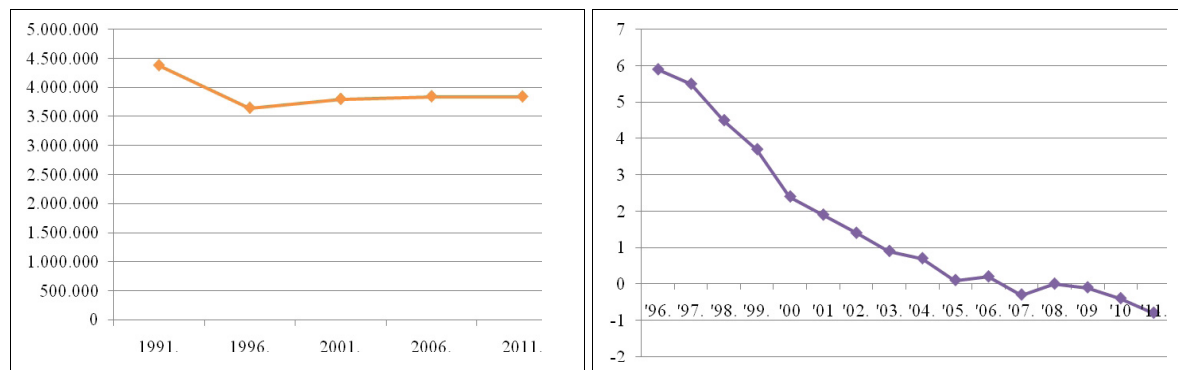


Fig. 2. (a) Population trends from 1991 till 2011; (b) Movement of population growth rate (in %) from 1996 till 2011

## 7. Conclusion

Demographic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, watching over a longer historical period, was positive. All from the first census during the Ottoman rule to the nineties of the twentieth century, the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina had an upward growth path.

Late twentieth century, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced with unfavorable demographic situation due to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This is manifested in the intensive migration of the population, mortality of the most vital populations and disorders in the population distribution. During the war from 1992 till 1995 the number of inhabitants further reduced, and according to estimates, after the war, in 1996 the population has decreased by 6.5% compared to the last census in 1991.

Studies have shown that the total demographic losses (direct demographic losses, losses in the birth rate and migration losses) in the period from 1992 till 1995 amount to approximately 1,135,966 residents, which is 25.95% of the population in 1991, or around a quarter of pre-war population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

However, we will be able to speak with safety and precision about population and population structures in Bosnia and Herzegovina only when a census is conducted, which is "late" for 22 years.

Besides the lack of a list, the contemporary demographic problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina is depopulation and a negative natural growth. With the trend of low or negative population growth, which has a direct impact on the accelerated aging of the population, the further growth of the population and socio-economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina is questionable.

Though the demographic future of Bosnia and Herzegovina looks pretty bleak, rapid economic transition, taking long-term sectoral policies, and the successful implementation of measures to boost birth could slow down the adverse trends, which would create the conditions for the gradual demographic and any other recovery of the area. Next in line are those from whose action depends on whether our future will be bleak or different from what we all want.

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